KERALA

Administration: The Kerala State Archives Department was established in the year 1962. Shri P.K. Umashankar, I.A.S., Special Secretary to Government, Higher Education Department, has been continuing as the Ex-officio Director of Archives. Shri M.Abdul Majeed continued as the Assistant Director of Archives and Shri C.V.Joseph was the Superintendent in the Directorate.

The three Regional Offices under this Department, hitherto known as Archives, at Trivandrum, Ernakulam and Kozhikode were redesignated as Central Archives, Trivandrum, Regional Archives, Ernakulam and Regional Archives, Kozhikode, during the year. An officer of the cadre of Assistant Superintendent (non-gazetted) was in-charge of each of the three Regional Offices during the period.

In response to a request from the Government of Kerala for a study of the existing conditions and to suggest a reorganisation of the State Archives on a scientific and rational basis, the National Archives of India had deputed an Archivist from the National Archives of India to Kerala for the purpose. The report submitted by him for the reorganisation of the Department is now under the consideration of the Government.

Budget: During the year a sum of Rs.2,79,100 was spent out of a budget provision of Rs.2,83,500 on non-plan side. In the plan budget, nothing was spent out of a budget provision of Rs.1,29,500. For 1974-75, a budget provision of Rs.3,09,500 has been made on the non-plan side and a sum of Rs.1,18,200 on the plan side.

Building: The State Archives Department has at present its own buildings both for the Directorate and the three Regional Offices under it. As the existing buildings in Trivandrum are too

old and inadequate for housing the entire holdings it was proposed to construct a new building for the Archives at Nalanda Compound, Nanthancode, Trivandrum. There is a plan provision of Rs.3 lakhs in the Fifth Five Year Plan for the scheme "building and purchase of modern equipments and materials for preservation of records," of which a sum of Rs. 1,18,200 has been allotted during the year 1974-75. Proposals for the construction of new buildings for the Regional Archives at Ernakulam and Kozhikode are also under consideration.

Record Management: The non-current records pertaining to D. Disposals and R. Disposals were examined. Retention Schedule is being followed while reviewing the papers.

Research and Reference: 14 Research Scholars availed themselves of research facilities in the State Archives. 6 queries on records from government agencies and 89 from private agencies/individuals were attended to.

Reference Media: List of 1,35,399 records (both cadjan and paper) and 19,437 registers and books etc. of the following papers were prepared:- (i) Cadjan records of the High Court of the erstwhile State of Travancore for the years 1039-1043 M.E., (ii) Huzur records (Paper) of the former Princely State for the years 1049-1080 M.E., (iii) F. Disposal files of the Malabar Collector for the years 1939-1940, (iv) Records of abdicated Raja of Cochin for the period 1900-1914 A.D., (v) Settlement Registers relating to various Talukas in the old Malabar District, (vi) Chitta Registers, (vii) Peliam Records, (viii) Gazettes, (ix) Malayalam Diaries (1814-1832 A.D.), (x) Jamabandy Orders (1031-72 M.E.), (xi) Diwan's Diaries, (xii) Resident's Letters, (xiii) Rayasam Files (1024-1124 M.E.), (xiv) Judicial and Confidential Files

(1044-1099 M.E.), (xv) Neettus (Royal Commands), (xiv) Miscellaneous Records (1778-1893 A.D.).

15,581 cadjan records acquired from the High Court were indexed. 5,000 settlement registers for the years 1901-1906 relating to various taluks in the old Malabar District and 8,150 F.Disposal files of the years 1932-1942, and bound volumes of (i) Travancore Government Gazette (1037-1124 M.E.) - 526 Volumes, (ii) Travancore-Cochin Government Gazette (1949-1956 A.D.) -89 Volumes, (iii) Kerala Government Gazette (1956-1973 A.D.) -214 Volumes, (iv) Cochin Government Gazettes (1867-1948 A.D.) -588 Volumes, (v) Mysore Government Gazettes (1908-1922 A.D.) -39 Volumes were arranged. A reference list to these volumes was also prepared. 467 publications were classified and rearranged and a reference list of these publications was prepared.

Publication Programme: A reprint of the Cochin State Granth vari originally printed in the year 1906 A.D. was published as "Kerala Archives Publication No.1." Steps are in progress to bring out a booklet entitled "An Introduction to the Kerala State Archives" containing a brief account of the various categories of the record holdings in the possession of the Department, as a precursor for the compilation of a Guide Book to the Archives. A quarterly publication under the title "Kerala Archives News Letter" devoted to bring to light select unpublished records of historical interest is also proposed to be brought out shortly.

Preservation of Records: 593 sheets were repaired with chiffon and 4,119 Volumes bound.

Library: 268 books were acquired during the period.

Exhibition: The Department participated in the Record Exhibition at Trivandrum organised on the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee of the Trivandrum Public Library and in the Cultural Exhibition organised in connection with the Silver Jubilee of the Cochin Thuramugha Thozhilali Union at Mattancherry(Cochin). Both the exhibitions attracted large crowds.